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## LADIES LEAD FIGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL

CIVIC LEAGUE MEMBERS WORKING VALIANTLY FOR BOND ISSUE.

## NEED FOR BUILDING IS GENERALLY FELT

To Vote on Proposition to Issue Bonds in Sum of \$50,000 Next Tuesday.

The fight for the proposed issuance of bonds in the sum of \$50,000 for the erection and equipment of a new high school building, which proposition is to be submitted to the qualified electors of the Columbus school district at a special election to be held next Tuesday, February 1, is being led by the ladies of the city and contiguous territory, many of whom are members of the Civic League, which organization has been the recognized sponsor of the movement since its inception.

The very fact that the ladies of Columbus and its environs are at the head of the undertaking is ample proof of its worthiness, for these ladies are noted for their civic pride and for their interest which they continually manifest in the upbuilding of the city, and never have they championed a cause unless fully convinced that it would accrue to the general welfare of Columbus and Columbians.

It is universally admitted that the need of a new high school building is an urgent one, and the only objection advanced by those opposing the movement is that the issuance of the bonds will increase their taxes. The resultant increase, however, will be very slight, and every property owner in the district should be willing to bear his share of the added expense in order to secure adequate educational advantages for our boys and girls.

Columbus is in a good financial position. There is money in the municipal treasury and the tax rate is lower here than in many cities of similar size and where practically the same general conditions prevail. These cities are not standing back because times are hard; but are going ahead erecting school houses and making other improvements, and if Columbus fails to vote the proposed bonds it will not only be unjust to the children, but will stamp her children as being backward and totally lacking in public spirit.

Our children are our most precious possessions, being far dearer to us than gold or the things that gold can buy, and surely we owe it to them to provide for their bodily comfort and mental welfare by giving them an up-to-date high school building with modern equipment where they will not only have better advantages from an educational viewpoint but will be made thoroughly comfortable and contented by more salutary surroundings.

Glover Brandon. Mr. Tom G. Glover, of Cliftonville, and Miss Lillie May Brandon of MeShan, Ala., gave their friends a surprise Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock when they were married by Rev. J. L. Viperman, at the First Baptist parsonage.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Brandon, of MeShan, and is a very pretty and attractive young lady.

The groom, who is well known in this city as a prosperous planter of Cliftonville.

The happy couple left the city Tuesday afternoon for MeShan, and after a short visit to relatives at that place will go to Cliftonville to reside.

Ellis-Pennington. A quiet wedding was solemnized at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon when Miss Stella Pennington was married to Mr. Hunter L. Ellis, the ceremony being performed by Rev. W. I. Allen, at his home in East Columbus.

The bride is the pretty and attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Pennington. The groom, who is a son of Mr. J. J. Ellis, is a valued employee of the Southern Railway in Mississippi.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis will be at home to their friends at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Perkerson, on North Third avenue.

The Commercial joins the many friends of this happy couple in wishing them a long and happy married life.

Mrs. W. H. Hurt and little son, Harvey, who have been visiting relatives in Meridian, have returned to the city.

## JACKSON HIGHWAY RECEIVES IMPETUS

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS HELD TUESDAY.

## PLANS MADE FOR COUNTY ROUTE

Meeting Presided Over by Hon. T. J. Locke, Jr., Who Made Fine Speech.

Construction of the Mississippi route of the proposed Jackson highway received a splendid impetus Tuesday afternoon, when commissioners of the several separate road taxing districts of the county held a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, and formed tentative plans for the building of the road from the Alabama state line on the north to the Noxubee county line on the south, which will complete the great memorial thoroughfare so far as Lowndes county is concerned.

The meeting was presided over by Hon. T. J. Locke, Jr., president of the second district road commission, who delivered a forceful address in which he urged co-operation and concerted action upon the part of the commissioners of the different local road taxing districts, declaring this to be the only manner in which Lowndes county could ever hope to construct her portion of the proposed highway.

The plans as outlined and practically agreed upon at the meeting held Tuesday afternoon provide not only for the completion of the Jackson Highway from the Alabama state line to Noxubee county but make provision for the construction of connecting links between the different roads that have already been improved, thus giving Lowndes county a complete and unbroken chain of modern public highways.

The different road taxing districts of the county were represented at the meeting by the following commissioners: District two, Messrs. Thomas J. Locke, Jr., D. D. Stephenson and B. A. Weaver, represented by Mr. Locke; Artesia district, Dr. N. D. Guerry, Mr. S. T. Pilkington and Mr. J. S. Billups; Gilmer and Macon road, special district, Mr. T. K. Swope, Mr. C. W. Evans, Mr. Jack Cox, represented by the latter two members of the commission; Bent Oak Separate district, Mr. A. E. Herring, Mr. J. A. Hardy and Mr. J. T. Lloyd; District four, Mr. W. E. Cox, Mr. W. D. Ledbetter and Mr. S. F. Potts.

## PAUL CROSS GETS NINETY DAYS FOR SELLING WHISKEY

LINDON LINDSAY, NEGRO, HELD UNDER BOND FOR CHECK FORGERY.

Local police, under the able leadership of Chief Morton, are continuing their vigorous war against blind tigers, and on Monday Paul Cross, a negro, convicted on a charge of retailing before Mayor Gunter, was given an additional "cross" to bear in the shape of a ninety-dollar fine and a penal sentence of ninety days on the county farm.

The case against Cross was worked up by Officer W. L. Sisson, who in December was suspended from the force for thirty days but who has recently returned to duty. Officer Sisson's beat includes the Mobile & Ohio depot, and it was in that vicinity that negro operated his booze emporium. Cross was defended by Attorney P. C. Barksdale, while E. E. Callaway, of the firm of Callaway & Storey, appeared for the prosecution.

Lindon Lindsey, alias J. L. Simpson, the negro who on last Saturday presented for payment to the Columbus National Bank a check for the sum of \$118 with the forged signature of Mr. J. W. Jernigan, a prominent planter of the Caledonia neighborhood attached thereto, was arraigned before Mayor Gunter Monday, and upon waiving examination was ordered to give bond in the sum of \$300 to await the action of the grand jury. The negro was unable to furnish bail, and was remanded to jail.

Mr. Jake Kaufman sustained a broken rib Monday when he fell from a ladder in the store of Kaufman Brothers. His many friends hope that he will soon recover from his injuries.



—Kirby in New York World.

## BRITISH MEET REVERSES IN FIGHT WITH MOSLEMS

TURKS MAKE GAINS IN BATTLE BEFORE BESEIGED CITY OF KUT-EL-AMARA.

London, Jan. 26.—If reports from Turkish headquarters are exact the British in Mesopotamia suffered a somewhat severe reverse in their endeavor to reach the besieged town of Kut-El-Amara. Twenty miles east of Kut-El-Amara the Turks drove the British back several miles, and the British left on the field about 3,000 dead. The Turkish losses are claimed to have been comparatively slight.

The British advancing from Muntefik, on the Shatt-El-Hai River south of Kut-El-Amara toward Korna, also were compelled to retreat before a Turkish attack, says the report leaving 100 dead.

A British reverse at the hands of the Turks, however, is somewhat offset by the Turkish losses in a battle with the Russians in the neighborhood of Erzerum. A dispatch says the Turks lost 50 officers and 4,000 men taken prisoners, and also scores of machine guns and quantities of munitions were captured.

Aside from the usual bombardments, mining operations and aeroplane raids, little fighting is going on in the other theatres of the war.

## GERALDINE FARRAR SEEN IN FINE PORTRAYAL OF CARMEN

NOTED OPERATIC STAR GIVES BRILLIANT IMPERSONATION OF ROLE.

Geraldine Farrar was seen at the Princess Theater Monday afternoon and evening in a screen production of "Carmen," and delighted three large and fashionable audiences.

Although Miss Farrar has gained her greatest distinction as a vocalist, she possesses distinct dramatic ability, and her impersonation of the famous role was vigorous, forceful and convincing. She was, indeed, a veritable Harry, displaying at one moment the innocence and simplicity of childhood and the next the treachery and craftiness of the vampire. In addition to her dramatic powers she possesses a commanding stage presence, and every scene in which she appeared was powerful and effective.

The supporting company was all that could be desired, while the scenery was beautiful, the entire production was stupendous in its magnitude. A fine musical program was rendered by the Princess orchestra, and added materially to the pleasure of those who witnessed the production.

Read our want ads.

## 10,766,271 BALES COTTON GINNED TO JANUARY 16

GOVERNMENT ISSUES NINTH REPORT FOR THE SEASON.

The ninth cotton ginning report of the current season, compiled from reports of census bureau correspondents was issued Monday, by the federal government and announced that 10,766,271 bales of cotton of the growth of 1915 had been ginned to January 16.

Round bales are counted in the report as half bales, and the figures submitted therein compare with 14,915,857, or 93.8 per cent of the entire crop, ginned to the corresponding date last year; 13,582,036 bales, or 91.7 per cent of the total crop of 1913, and 13,088,930 bales, or 97 per cent of the total crop in 1912.

The average quantity of cotton ginned to January 16 during the past ten years has been 12,231,494 bales or 95.5 per cent of the total crop.

Included in the report was 106,996 round bales, compared with 50,942 bales ginned prior to January 16 last year, 96,807 in 1913 and 78,690 in 1912.

Sea Island cotton included numbered 90,736 bales, compared with 79,515 ginned prior to January 16, 1915, 72,227 in 1913 and 70,758 in 1912.

The report shows the crop in Mississippi to be extremely short, as during the present season there have been ginned only 898,444 bales, while on the corresponding date last year ginnings in the state amounted to 1,114,787 bales and in the previous season to 1,176,839 bales.

## W. C. GUNTER WILL BE IN IMPENDING MAYORALTY RACE

PRESENT MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE WILL BE CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION.

While the article in reference to the impending municipal campaign stated that Hon. W. C. Gunter, the present efficient chief executive of the city would be a candidate for re-election, no definite announcement was made upon the subject for the very good reason that Mayor Gunter was in Tuscaloosa, when the article was written, and it was therefore impossible to interview him on the matter. He has since returned to the city, however, and when seen by a Commercial reporter Tuesday stated positively that he would stand for re-election, and would make official announcement of his candidacy at an early date.

Mayor Gunter has made a valiant effort to enforce the laws and ordinances of the city, and is willing to go before the people on his record. He has been especially zealous in his efforts to stop gambling and

## HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST GATHERED HERE AND THERE

GIST OF NEWS FROM OVER THE COUNTRY GIVEN IN A BRIEF FORM.

With the assertion that January and February will constitute the most difficult period yet experienced in the history of war relief work in Belgium and northern France, Samuel W. Fairchild, chairman of the greater New York committee of commission of relief in Belgium has issued a new appeal for funds with which to buy shoes and clothing for three million destitute persons in those countries.

The site has been chosen for the statue that is to be erected in commemoration of Edith Cavell, the British nurse executed in Belgium. The statue will be erected at the Tuileries Garden at the angle fronting Rue de Rivoli and place de La Concorde, one of the spots most familiar to Parisians and tourists.

A bill which will submit a constitutional amendment in Kentucky providing for state-wide prohibition was defeated Tuesday by a vote of 20 to 14.

Mary Tecuyas, reputed to be 159 years old, died in California on Jan. 23. She was the oldest member of the almost extinct Trejon tribe living in canyon in that state. The tribe is said to include 15 Indians over 100 years old.

## THIS IS JEWISH RELIEF DAY; FUNDS BADLY NEEDED

MESSRS. SIMON LOEB AND IRVIN KAUFMAN CONSTITUTE LOCAL COMMITTEE.

This is Jewish Relief Day, having been duly named as such by President Wilson in an official proclamation, and Rabbi Simon Loeb, of Temple B'Nai, and Mr. Irvin Kaufman, a prominent merchant, constitute the local committee appointed to receive donations.

Jewish people in foreign lands have undergone intense suffering and a serious deprivation as a result of the European war, and are in urgent need of assistance.

Donations can either be sent to the committee or to this office, and the Commercial will promptly turn over all goods or money received to the gentlemen appointed to look after local contributions.

whiskey selling, and it that end in view has recently reorganized the police force.

As has been heretofore stated, there is in circulation a rumor to the effect that every member of the present councilmanic board will have opposition in the coming contest, and it is even said that in some wards there will be no less than three aspirants.

## MANN CONVERTED TO PREPAREDNESS

MINORITY LEADER COMES OUT IN FAVOR OF WILSON'S PLANS.

## HAS FEAR OF WAR WITH JOHN BULL

Declares England is Far More Likely Than Germany to Attack United States.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Unqualified, non-partisan support of military preparedness was urged today by Minority Leader Mann, in a ringing speech in the House. He was heartily and repeatedly applauded by both sides of the chamber.

While it has been understood that most of the Republicans favored army and navy increases, until today none of their leaders had spoken on the subject. Consequently, coming as it did on the eve of the President's departure on a preparedness speaking tour, Mr. Mann's address was regarded as particularly significant. He remarked himself that he always had been known as a "small" army and navy man.

Representative Mann based his plea on the ground that it behooves the United States now to prepare for any eventualities that may result from the European war. He declared that he saw no immediate danger of war and hoped that peace might prevail, but that the danger of the United States being drawn into the present conflict or one that might result from it, was too great to be disregarded.

"I have much more fear in the end of war with England than I have of war with Germany," he said. That was his only comment on this phase of his subject. Later he declined to elaborate on his remark.

Mr. Mann urged no particular preparedness plan. He said he favored a standing army of 250,000 or 300,000, or even half a million men, better coast defenses and "a navy which will be able to defend us on the sea." He promised to go into these details at greater length later.

"I think that we ought to provide these great forces," said he in pleading for a non-partisan view of the question. "That it ought to be considered an emergency matter, entirely apart from the ordinary routine or expense of the government, without regard to partisanship or party lines."

Touching on the cost, Mr. Mann said it would be millions now, but better that than billions later.

## PROHIBITION IS DEFEATED IN STATE OF LOUISIANA

"WETS" WIN BY MAJORITY OF 20,000—PLEASANT IS NOMINATED FOR GOVERNOR.

New Orleans, Jan. 25.—Liquor has won in the Democratic state primary in Louisiana by a majority ranging from 20,000 to 25,000. The figures are estimates at this hour. Pleasant was nominated for governor.

The city of New Orleans has gone wet by at least 20,000 majority.

In the 63 country parishes the issue was close in many and in others the dries have won by good leads but not enough to overcome the heavy majorities for the wets in the city of New Orleans, and in the creole parishes in South Louisiana, which have never gone "dry."

For the first time in Louisiana politics prohibition became a direct issue in this nominating primary, when Thomas C. Barrett, of Shreveport, declared for an extension of the present local option unit from the parish to the congressional unit and for the submission of the state wide prohibition to a vote of the people within four years.

Ruffin E. Pleasant, also of Shreveport, has made his campaign on the platform with the county as the unit, and against statewide prohibition. His platform demanded an endorsement of the present liquor legislation in this state.

This put the issue squarely up to the people.

Barrett has failed to unite the solid prohibition vote for the state and his campaign lacked vigor.

The National Anti-Saloon League sent several speakers to the state.

Today's vote indicates a slump in the Democratic vote of probably

## LIQUOR PACKAGES ARE TO BE TAXED

SENATE PASSES BILL PROVIDING FOR FEES TO CLERKS.

## 3 NEW JUSTICES NAMED BY BILBO

Bill Providing For Law Examining Board Also Passed by the Senate.

Quite a number of important measures came up for consideration in the State Senate at Jackson Monday. The Senate, after prolonged debate and discussion, passed the Crawley bill, providing for a state board of examiners, to be appointed by the governor, to pass on all applicants to practice law in Mississippi. This means should the bill be enacted and become of effect that would-be law practitioners throughout the state, instead of going out and looking up a chancellor to pass upon their legal learning, must appear before a qualified examining board, just as is the case with those who aspire to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary surgery or professional nursing, to be tested as to their learning, mental and moral equipment for admission to practitioners' ranks.

At its afternoon session the Senate passed a bill introduced by Mr. Boddie, providing for a fee of 15 cents to each circuit clerk in the county for recording certificates of carriers upon deliveries of intoxicants. The fee is to be paid by the consignee of such goods, and every shipment entered the clerk is to receive 15 cents. In some counties this will amount to considerable in the way of added personal increment to the clerk, and will offset the slumps in marriage license fees.

By adopting the House concurrent resolution incorporating the supreme court enlargement and elective judiciary amendments into the constitution, the Senate completed the last step towards making the new system of force and effect, and immediately upon this action, the old order changed entirely, and the governor immediately announced his choice for the three new seats on the bench.

The moment that the amendments had been regularly incorporated the new system, as held by Governor Bilbo and the Legislature, had gone into effect, the old order had changed and the time was ripe for the governor, by executive action, to fill out the places thus created on the increased bench by substantive appointments.

Directly after being unofficially informed by newspaper men of the concurrent action of the Senate, Gov. Bilbo announced that he would select as the acting appointees, to hold until three judges can be elected, Clayton D. Potter, of Hinds, for the First district; J. Bert Holden, of Pike, Second district, and Octave O. Sykes, Jr., of Monroe, Third district.

The selection of Hon. E. O. Sykes of Aberdeen, as one of the new supreme court justices is very gratifying to his constituents in this section of the state. The new appointee is a son of the late Judge E. O. Sykes, who for many years was judge of the First circuit court district, which during a greater portion of his incumbency included Lowndes county, and is recognized as an able and astute lawyer. He is popular not only in this immediate section but throughout the state, and not only his friends but those of his lamented father are exceedingly glad to note that his ability has received official recognition.

Marguerite Clark at Princess Today. The attraction at the Princess for today, Thursday, Jan. 27th, is the captivating, dainty little star Marguerite Clark, in the latest Paramount feature, "Still Waters," adapted from the book of Edith Barnard Delano, and produced by the Famous Players Film Company in five reels.

This is a beautiful production in which Miss Clark is at her best. The admission will remain 5c and 10c.

Mr. L. G. Bridgeforth, of Crawford, was among the visitors to the city Monday.

30,000, that number remaining out of the primary and keeping themselves free to enter the general election and vote for John M. Parker, the Progressive candidate for governor.